

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
NEWTOWN AND LLANLLWCHAIARN

THE ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and of
THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1957.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTOWN AND LLANLLWCHAIARN.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Mrs.M.J.Davies.

MEMBERS: Councillors -

MRS. J.D.SMITH
R.J.DRYMER-GRIFFITH
J.I.MORRIS
W.L.IVOR JONES
E.W.EVANS

Staff:

Medical Officer of Health: Amelia Evans, B.Sc.,M.B.,B.Ch.,D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector: Mr.W.G.Davies, M.P.H.I.A.,M.R.S.M., .R.I.P.H.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector:Mr.W.A.Young.
Rodent Operator: Mr.Harry Matthews.
Administrative Clerk: Mr.Idris Owen - until 11.5.57.
Mr.Ken.Hamer - from 8.7.57.

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To The
Chairman and Members of the Newtown, Llanillwchaearn Urban District Council.
Members,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1957 on the health and sanitary conditions in your district, and which is arranged in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/58 (Wales.)

Staff. Mr. Idris Owen, the Administrative Clerk, resigned on 11.5.57, and Mr. Ken. Hamer took up his duties on 8.7.57.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births. The birth rate for 1957 was 15.27 per 1,000 population compared with 16.54 in 1956. The rate for the Urban districts in the County was 15.07 and for Montgomeryshire 15.22.

There were 3 still births, giving a percentage of 3.7 of live births, compared with 2.2 in 1956. In the urban districts of the County this rate was 4.1% and in the Whole County 3.8%.

There was 1 illegitimate birth, being 1.2% of the total births, compared with 2.2% in 1956. The rate in the urban areas was 1.8% and in the Whole County 3.24%.

Infant Mortality.

There was one death in an infant in the first year of life. This was due to a congenital malformation of the heart.

This gives an Infant mortality rate of 12 per 1,000 live births compared with 56 in 1956. The rate for the urban districts was 30 per 1,000 and for the Whole County 22 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths. The total number of deaths from all causes was 57, which gives a rate of 10.61 per 1,000 population compared with 12.64 per 1,000 in 1956. The rate for the urban districts was 11.14 and for the Whole County 11.82.

National Assistance Act 1947 - Section 47.

No action was taken under this section.

Infectious Diseases.

The town was free from any epidemic in 1957.

Towards the end of the year a case of salmonella food poisoning was notified on a farm in the outer district. The farm was visited and all the necessary precautions were taken.

Housing.

The construction of 12 bungalows was completed and work started on 24 houses. All these are for slum clearance.

The Council have continued looking for sites for further housing programmes.

A public enquiry was held in November in connection with part of the Council's proposals regarding slum clearance, i.e. Frankwell Street area. This area was later confirmed by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

Water Supplies.

During the summer months appeals were made to the public to be sparing in their use of water, though no definite restrictions and no rationing was necessary.

Detection of waste has gone on throughout the year and several new water mains were laid.

Sewerage Farm.

Land treatment at the Sewerage Farm continued and conditions there were as good as possible.

Abattoir.

There are three slaughterhouses in the district - one owned by the Council and two privately owned.

All the meat is regularly inspected.

Refuse Tip.

The refuse tip is situated very near a Council Housing Estate and despite every care a problem arose in the summer months. There was an abnormal number of flies. The tipping surface was extensively treated with insecticide, but nevertheless the fly problem persisted.

The only satisfactory answer to this problem is to move the tip.

Again, as in recent years, I would like to express my appreciation of the co-operation shown me by the Public Health Inspector and his staff and by the Clerk, and also to the Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest in the work of this department.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS
Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,
NEWTOWN.
Montgomeryshire.

April, 1958.

STATISTICS

	1957.	1956.
Area in acres	7,224	7,224
Population (Mid-Year Estimate.)	5,370	5,380
Rateable Value	£55,922	£50,564
Penny product	£212	£238:6:0

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	1957			1956.		
	Male	Female	Total.	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	53	28	81	54	33	87
Illegitimate	-	1	1	2	-	2
TOTAL:	53	29	82	56	33	89
Birth Rate per 1,000 population						
(a) For Newtown		15.27			16.54	
(b) For Urban areas in the County		15.07			14.92	
(c) For Montgomeryshire		15.22			15.0	
For England and Wales		16.1				

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	1957	1956
	3. (1 male, 2 female.)	2.
Still Birth rate - Percentage of total Births:		
(a) For Newtown	3.7	2.2
(b) For Urban areas in the County	4.1	2.6
(c) For Montgomeryshire	3.8	1.8
For England and Wales	2.24	

<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>	1957	1956
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	1	5
Rate per 1,000 Live Births:		
(a) For Newtown	12	56
(b) For Urban districts in the County	30	26
(c) For Montgomeryshire	22	30
For England and Wales	23	

<u>DEATHS. (All causes.)</u>	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total.	Male	Female	Total.
All ages	25	32	57	31	37	68
Death rate per 1,000 population:						
(a) For Newtown		10.61			12.64	
(b) For Urban districts in the County		11.14			12.78	
(c) For Montgomeryshire		11.82			12.19	
For England and Wales		11.5				

Age at Death:

Age in years -	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total.	Male	Female	Total.
Under 1	1	-	1	4	1	5
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	1
5 -	-	-	-	1	-	1
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	1	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	1	3	4
55 -	4	2	6	5	2	7
65 -	7	7	14	9	14	23
75 -	6	17	23	8	13	21
85 and over	5	6	11	2	4	6
	25	32	57	31	37	68

CAUSES OF DEATH

	1957			1956		
	Male	Female	Total.	Male	Female	Total.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasn, stomach	-	2	2	2	2	4
" " lung, bronchus	2	1	3	1	-	1
" " breast	-	-	-	-	2	2
" " uterus	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic	1	2	3	3	4	7
Leukaemia neoplasms	1	-	1	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	7	9	5	8	13
Coronary disease, angina	4	1	5	3	3	6
Hypertension with heart disease	1	5	6	-	1	1
Other heart disease	7	10	17	4	10	14
Other circulatory disease	1	-	1	-	2	2
Influenza	2	-	2	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1	3	-	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach, duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nephritis, nephrosis	1	-	1	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	1	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	2	2	7	1	8
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-	-	1	1
All other accidents	1	-	1	1	-	1
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	25	32	57	31	37	68

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	- 2.	ages 5 and 7 years.
<u>Whooping Cough</u>	- -	
<u>Acute Poliomyelitis</u>	- -	
<u>Measles</u>	- 2.	ages 3 and 5 years.
<u>Diphtheria</u>	- -	
<u>Dysentery</u>	- -	
<u>Meningococcal infections</u>	- -	
<u>Acute Pneumonia</u>	- 1	aged 31 years.
<u>Smallpox</u>	- -	
<u>Acute encephalitis</u>	- -	
<u>Typhoid fever</u>	- -	
<u>Paratyphoid fever</u>	- -	
<u>Erysipelas</u>	- -	
<u>Food poisoning</u>	- 1	aged 40 years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year five cases were put on the Tuberculosis register.

Of these, two were new cases:-

- (1) A woman of 28 with the glands of the neck infected.
- (2) A man of 32 with the lungs infected.

The other three cases had previously been notified in other districts and came to live in this district during 1957:-

2 females aged 27 and 34 years and 1 male aged 24 years - all with pulmonary tuberculosis.

Two cases were removed from the register, both having left the district:-

- (1) A woman who was 26 when she was notified in 1947 with pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (2) A woman who was 19 when she was notified in 1951 with pulmonary tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 38 notified cases of Tuberculosis residing in this district.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

AMBULANCE. The local Service is the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.
(Telephone Newtown 205. 9.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.
(" Newtown 359. After 5.00 p.m.)

SITTING-CASE CAR SERVICE - All requests to the County Health Offices, Newtown.
(Telephone Newtown 205.)

CHILDREN'S OFFICER. This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act 1948. The Officer is -
Mr. W.E. Jones,
County Offices, Welshpool. (Telephone Welshpool 3311.)

The Children's Reception Home is at -
12 Bronwylfa, Welshpool. (Tel: Welshpool 3109.)

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.

This district is served by -
Sister C. Lloyd Jones,
Bryneglwyys, Newtown. (Telephone Newtown 497.)

HEALTH VISITOR -

The Health Visitor for the area is -
Miss N.L. Jones,
County Health Offices, Newtown.

HOME HELP SERVICE. Particulars of this Service can be obtained from the Supervisor -
Mrs. Rhoda Goodwin,
County Health Offices, Newtown. (Tel: Newtown 205.)

CARE OF THE AGED. This Service is provided by the Welfare Department of the County Council and the local Home established for the care of the aged is at Plas-Cae-Cwm, Newtown.

HOSPITALS. The Montgomery County Infirmary is controlled by the Mid-Wales Management Committee at Aberystwyth. Medical, surgical and maternity cases are admitted.

LABORATORY SERVICE. Branches of the Public Health Laboratory Service are at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, and Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The County Council is responsible for this Service and Clinics are held every Wednesday in the afternoon at Park Street Clinic.

DENTAL CLINIC. The County Council is responsible for this Service and Dental Clinics are held at Park Street for the treatment of schoolchildren.

TUBERCULOSIS. This Service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board and Dr. G.O. Thomas, the Chest Physician, holds Clinics on the second and fourth Tuesday at 11.00 a.m.

During the latter half of the year the MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT visited the town at 3 weekly intervals for the free chest x-ray examination of the public.

VACCINATION. Vaccination against Smallpox is carried out in this area by the local general practitioners.

PROTECTION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at approximately 9 months to 1 year followed by a booster dose at 5 years. The value of a high record of immunisation is borne out by the fact that there has been no case of Diphtheria in the town for many years.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is also offered, commencing at 3 months and consisting of 3 monthly injections.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS. This was continued throughout 1957, when only a comparatively few number of children could be vaccinated owing to the limited supply of vaccine. The British product was used in 1957. However, when the use of Canadian and American vaccine is made possible, vaccination will be extended to children from 6 months to 15 years.

Mr.Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Once again I wish to submit my contribution to the Annual Report for 1957.

A serious start was made during the year on Slum Clearance, representations being made in respect of 38 houses, 12 bungalows were completed, and 4 houses. However, in view of the large number of houses to be dealt with much more clearance work has to be done. This is particularly so in view of the first five year plan of dealing with 191 houses, as submitted and approved by the Minister in the report presented to him under the Housing Repairs & Rents Acts 1954 in August 1955. Some houses are not only unfit but actually in the process of collapse.

Water supply has greatly improved and all parts of the town which are piped get an excellent supply of water. This has been due to constant attention to waste, relaying and scraping of mains, and the benefit particularly of the new trunk main from the reservoir to the filter house.

The sewers of the town still need to be cleansed but before this can be done the necessary equipment must be provided. Another unsatisfactory feature is the weekly emptying of privies and earth closets at Nantoer, as well as periodical emptying of cess pools in this area.

My thanks are again due to the Health Committee for their support and help, and also to my colleagues the Clerk, Medical Officer, Additional Public Health Inspector, Finance Officer and all other members of the Staff for their co-operation and support all through the year.

Yours obediently,

W.G.DAVIES
Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year numbered 4,122 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given below:-

SUMMARY.

(1) Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	.....	28
(2) Number of houses inspected for other than Housing defects	.....	54
(3) Premises other than houses inspected (including visits to Industrial Premises)	.....	2373
(4) Premises re-inspected (including houses)	.....	155
(5) Works in progress (including houses)	.....	172
(6) Miscellaneous visits	.....	1340
		<u>4122.</u>

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Representation was made in respect of 38 houses contained in the following Clearance areas:-

	<u>Number of Houses.</u>
Union Court (No.3) Clearance Area	2
Frankwell Street (No.9) Clearance Area	7
Old Church Street (No.10) Clearance Area	5
Old Church Street (No.11) Clearance Area	7
Crown Street (No.12) Clearance Area	13
Turners Lane (No.13) Clearance Area	4
	<u>38.</u>

The following areas were confirmed during the year:-

Union Court (No.3)
Old Church Street (No.10 and No.11)
Turners Lane (No.13)

Rehousing during the year was carried out in 4 houses at Cae Cynric and 12 bungalows at Y Ffrydd.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects
(Under Public Health Acts)..... 28

Repairs: Informal action -

Number of houses unfit but rendered fit during period as a result
of informal action . 51

Action made under Statutory Powers -

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service
of formal notice -

(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected since 1945:

By Local Authority	234
By Private Enterprise	84

Number of houses erected during 1957:

By Local Authority	16
By Private Enterprise	10

Temporary Accommodation:

6 huts remained occupied at 31st December in Glandulas
Camp.

Efforts are continuing to close down all these
temporary huts.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Routine meat inspection at the Council's Slaughter House at Stone Street and the private slaughter houses at Great Brimmon and Lower Brimmon was carried on throughout the year. The high quality of the animals slaughtered reflects in the low figure of condemnations.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number Killed	319	5	1600	484	2408
Number inspected	319	5	1600	484	2408
Diseases other than T.B. (Whole carcasses)	0	0	9	1	10
(Part carcasses)	0	0	3	0	3
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	0	0	0.08	0.2	
Whole carcasses (T.B.only)	0	0	0	0	
Part carcasses condemned (T.B.only)	0	0	0	0	

Condemned food is disposed of at the Council's Refuse tip under supervision and all condemned meat covered with dye to render unsaleable.

WATER SUPPLY.

All chemical and bacteriological samples taken during the year were reported satisfactory.

Following are the monthly rainfall figures for the year:-

January	.....	2.08
February	.....	4.72
March	.....	2.94
April	.....	0.15
May	.....	2.03
June	.....	2.12
July	.....	4.28
August	.....	6.98
September	.....	6.03
October	.....	3.10
November	.....	3.99
December	.....	3.205
Total:		<u>41.625</u>

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

During the year, 11cwt., 92 lbs. of foodstuffs, including canned foods, were condemned as unfit for human consumption.
